

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee Subcommittee on Policies and Procedures

October 18, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Chris Riddle, Chair; Jacqueline Maidana, Vice-Chair, Michael Greenebaum, Clerk; Maurianne Adams, John Hornik, Hind Mari, Janet McGowan,

Absent: Amber KaCey, Adrienne Terrizzi

Guest: John Fox, Peggy Roberts (TMCC), Alan Powell (TMCC) , Mary Streeter (TMCC), Alisa Brewer (Select Board)

Agenda

1. Review and approve September 20 and October 11, 2016, minutes
2. Prepare Presentation to Town Meeting
3. Plan Our Survey
4. Establish Meeting Schedule for Next Few Months
5. Topics not anticipated 48 hours before meeting
6. Public Comment

1. The meeting called to order at 4:34 by Chair Chris Riddle. The Minutes of Sept 20 and Oct 11 were APPROVED.

2.. Greenebaum presented his draft for the presentation which will introduces SPP to Town Meeting. Several suggestions were made by Fox and McGowan. Greenebaum will include them in a revision to be submitted to the committee..

In a wide-ranging discussion, Adams noted that we have received communications from Walter Wolnik and Gerry Weiss. We need to acknowledge receipt with thanks.. McGowan thinks we need to be specific about the things we are working on and suggested that they might be included by Riddle in his presentation of the Warrant Article. Streeter noted that we have a website on which we can talk about our work and encourage response. Hornik wants the committee to move more quickly to develop a

queue of specific proposals it is working on, based upon the timing of submitting warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting. Brewer noted that the signing of the Warrant by the Select Board had been delayed and explained their plans for signing and publicizing it.

3. Discussion about the survey. The committee agreed that it should send an informal request to Town Meeting members for ideas about improving Town meeting. Adams will draft such a letter for the committee to discuss on Nov 3. How this letter will be disseminated to members will also be decided on November 3rd,

4. Meeting schedule - For the next two months SPP will meet every other Thursday 4:00-6:00 starting Nov. 3d. The remaining 2016 meetings therefore will be November 3, November 17, December 1, December 15 and December 29.

5. Several issues were raised about future agenda items. How do we make decisions - majority vote, 2/3 vote, consensus? How can we move more quickly and more concretely?. McGowan will do research about proper steps for implementing proposals. Some require only administrative adjustment; others may require amendments to the town's general bylaws; still others may require amendments to the Town Government Act or Massachusetts General Laws. McGowan will clarify the steps needed to accomplish these things. When we are at the point of seriously considering proposals, we should circulate them to Town Meeting members for comment. SPP members are encouraged to start writing concrete proposals for committee consideration.

Clarification of Open Meeting Law - members can circulate drafts and proposals electronically, but discussion of them should take place in open meetings.

6. As noted, several members of TMCC attended, as did the chair of the Select Board. They participated in the discussion as indicated. No additional public comment occurred.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm

Michael Greenebaum Clerk